

MITREOLA vs. CYNOCTONUM, AND A NEW COMBINATION

FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

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A series of communications between R. K. Godfrey and D. B. Ward (Florida State University and the University of Florida) concerning the usage of *Mitreola* vs. *Cynoctonum* was begun following their notation of Adam's (1972) treatment of the Loganiaceae in Flora of Jamaica. In this work, the widespread southeastern United States species customarily designated as *Cynoctonum mitreola* (L.) Britton was circumscribed under *Mitreola petiolata* (J. F. Gmelin) T. & G. prompting the question of which generic name is to be applied, and why.

Prior to 1753, Linnaeus used *Mitreola* as a genus (for instance, in Hortus Cliffortianus). Within Species Plantarum (1753) this genus was treated as *Ophiorrhiza*, containing *O. Mungos* (serving as the type species for *Ophiorrhiza*), and *O. Mitreola* (the later transfer of *Ophiorrhiza* to the Rubiaceae has precluded any subsequent use of this genus within the Loganiaceae). The fifth edition of Genera Plantarum (1754) again made use of *Ophiorrhiza*, with the spelling thus changed; Linnaeus here treated *Mitreola* as a generic synonym. Clearly, *Mitreola* was at this point not considered as the correct genus name by Linnaeus.

Carroll E. Wood, Jr. was able to supply some useful information to Ward concerning this problem. In a note to Ward, attention was brought to Linnaeus' Opera Varia (1758), in which the generic name *Mitreola* is published. Linnaeus merely changed his mind as to which generic name should be used, and at the same time, validly published the generic name. In his notes concerning this matter, Ward refers to this Linnaean "momentary whim" as a "sorry" way in which to publish a genus, and yet an acceptable one.

Walter's publication (1788) of *Anonymos petiolata* provided the basionym for *Cynoctonum petiolata* of J. F. Gmelin (1791). Britton retained Gmelin's genus, treating the species as *C. mitreola* (L.) Britton, unaware, too, of Linnaeus' 1758 publication. It is this last binomial which has been customarily applied to the wide-ranging species in the southeastern United States. Thus, the Linnaean genus *Mitreola* is applicable for the species, and the correct epithet originates with Walter's *Anonymos petiolata*. Torrey and Gray correctly published the combination (1841) as *M. petiolata* (J. F. Gmel.) T. & G.

A distinctive element of this genus has for some time been treated as *Cynoctonum sessilifolium* (Walter) J. F. Gmelin. In 1841, Torrey and Gray described var. *angustifolia* within this second Southeastern species. Small, in 1896, elevated this variety to specific rank under *Cynoctonum*. Recently, both Ward and Godfrey (Godfrey in particular) have suggested that *C. sessilifolium* (Walt.) Gmel. var. *angustifolium* T. & G. may indeed represent a form sufficiently distinct morphologically to warrant specific status, having the same opinion as did Small, some eighty years earlier. Godfrey has suggested that, on the basis of capsule and seed characters, this plant is more nearly allied with *M. petiolata* than with *M. sessilifolia* (= *Cynoctonum sessilifolium*). Since the effective combination for this taxon under *Mitreola* has not been made, it is here so presented, representing a distinctive element of the flora of southeastern Georgia and much of Florida.

Mitreola angustifolia (T. & G.) J. Nelson, *comb. nov.*

Cynoctonum sessilifolium (Walt.) Gmel.

var. *angustifolium* T. & G., Fl. N. Am. 2: 45. 1841.

Cynoctonum angustifolium (T. & G.) Small,

Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 23: 129. 1896.

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LITERATURE CITED

References to previous literature present in the notes of Godfrey and Ward are presented here in order to clarify the sources available for solving this nomenclatural problem.

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